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Statistics Canada Statistique Canada

July 1980

# Our New Minister Jean-Jacques Blais

**Jean-Jacques Blais**, MP for Nipissing, became the Minister responsible for Statistics Canada on June 13. He is Minister of Supply and Services and Receiver General for Canada.

"I have requested an office at Statistics Canada," says our new Minister, "because the bureau is an essential instrument in the formulation of economic and social policies in this country — it needs a Minister who is up-to-date in its activities."

"Although Statistics Canada is quite separate from Supply and Services Canada, and its independent autonomy must be maintained, it fits well into the same Ministry because it is a provider of very important services."

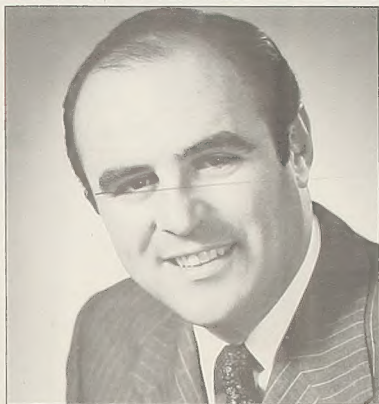
"Personally, I am specially happy to be working with the bureau. For many years I have been gaining an appreciation of what it is doing and why from my father, who retired from Statistics Canada last year."

**Rodolphe Blais** joined the Ottawa regional office in time to work on the 1971 census. He moved to the official languages division in 1978, and retired in 1979.

Our new Minister previously served as Solicitor General, Postmaster General and Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Treasury Board.

In the Parliament of May to December 1979, he was opposition justice critic, co-chairman of the Liberal caucus committee on rights and freedoms, and a member of the caucus committee on energy and the environment.

Outside Parliament, Mr. Blais  
(continued on page 2)



Jean-Jacques Blais, Statistics Canada's new Minister



Estela Dagum and her Shiskin Award. Beside it is a copy of her favourite slogan — "Statistics are no substitute for judgement."

## Washington Statistical Society Award Won First by Dr. Estela Bee Dagum

**Dr. Estela Bee Dagum**, chief of Statistics Canada's seasonal adjustment staff, was presented with the Washington Statistical Society's Julius Shiskin Award "for outstanding work in economic statistics" on June 12.

The award was established in memory of one of America's most respected statisticians. Among Shiskin's many accomplishments was development of the X-11 method of seasonal adjustment in 1965, a technique that Estela Dagum refined significantly enough to merit becoming the first recipient of the award.

Her refinement completes the fastest, most reliable method known for discovering major changes in trends in activities that vary seasonally. It spots "reversals" in key areas like unemployment and price indexes months faster than previous systems, and has become the official method in the International Organization for Economic and Cultural Development (OECD) and in such countries as Canada, the United States, France, Sweden, The Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Japan, Israel, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Mexico and Brazil.

Shiskin began experimenting in 1957 with computer programs to seasonally adjust statistics," Estela explains. "His eleventh experiment, which he called X-11, proved able to cope with both the variety and the magnitude of changes that the statistics portrayed. This be-

came accepted internationally as a basis for seasonal adjustment."

"But there was one problem with X-11 — it did not identify major changes in trends and cycles fast enough."

"Here at Statistics Canada, we had been doing short-term forecasting with ARIMA (autoregressive integrated moving averages). It wasn't new, in fact," (see bottom of page 3)

## United Way Committee Preparing for 1980 Action

"If each of us in Statistics Canada increases our donation to the United Way by the price of one cup of coffee per pay, we could reach our target," says 1980 campaign co-ordinator **Marlene Levine** of the IMPAC task force.

"But that means everyone — even those who do not contribute last year."

"Initiation is pinching us all, but it is really hurting those with the lowest incomes. They need our help now more than ever before, so we really have to give all we can afford."

Backing Marlene in this year's campaign will be deputy campaign co-ordinator **David Brusegard** of the office of the senior advisor on integration, special assistant **Liz Fitzgerald** of administration, data development staff, secretary **Colleen Kilgour** of regional operations division,



Chief Statistician **Larry Fry** (left) meets task force members **Marlene Levine**, **Pete Clarey**, **Joan Tremblay**, **Françoise Pierre-Pierre** and chairman **Jadu Saha**. **Mike Valiquette** missed the meeting.

## Management Task Force Moving Quickly

A task force to improve management practices and controls (IMPAC) is already working on the recommendations contained in the study of Statistics Canada made by the office of the Comptroller General.

Even while staffing of secretarial and clerical positions was proceeding, IMPAC director general **Jadu Saha** formed the task force and chaired its first three meetings. Members seconded to the task force are: **Pete Clarey** from transportation and communications division, **Marlene Levine** from consumer income and expenditure division, **Françoise Pierre-Pierre** from the federal statistical activities secretariat, **Joan Tremblay** from the Chief Statistician's office and **Mike Valiquette** from international travel. Other employees will be seconded to the task force for short periods to meet workload demands, and to acquire training in the new procedures being developed.



**Marlene Levine**, 1980 United Way campaign co-ordinator.

The task force will work closely with a steering committee chaired by Dr. Saha and consisting of ACS regional operations and marketing services **Dave Worton**; DG policy planning and evaluation **Mike Francino**; DG operations, social statistics **Bruce Petrie**; DG operations, economic statistics **Brian Salley**; DG systems and data processing **Jean Paul Trudel**, and the new DG Finance, when appointed.

"Line managers will play an important role throughout this project," Jadu Saha says. "We will rely heavily on their knowledge during the planning stages to help develop procedures that they can make work. No system will be decided upon until it has been discussed fully with managers involved in its implementation. Where unfamiliar management techniques are needed, training will be provided."

To reach its objectives by its target date, December 31, 1982, the task force prepared a "work plan" covering three tasks to be completed by December 31, 1980. This was approved by Chief Statistician **Larry Fry** on June 24.

The first task was to become generally familiar with the activities and operations of the bureau. Work on this began on June 2, and was virtually completed by June 30.

The second task is to develop an "action plan" to be implemented throughout the bureau, and to have it approved by the Chief Statistician and the Comptroller General. Identification of the projects and sub-projects to be included in the action plan (specifying what is to be done, why, how, when, by whom, and with what resources) is scheduled for completion (continued on page 2)





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# scanline 3-1444

Scan was caught with its stats down! The only correct figure in your report of linear regression, science & culture ball hockey tournament was the date.

The final, for example, was "won" by Post-Secondary 2-1, not 9-4. The first goal was scored by linear regression, the goal was pushed two feet to the left. The second was the result of multivariate analysis, when three post-secondary players fell on the goalie. Management fought back with a superb goal and then, with only one-third of the game played, post-secondary dragged the referee off to a tavern. That's where they outdrank Management 9-4.

Jeffrey Holmes  
(MVP Management)

## Our Minister

(from page 1)  
Served on the advisory committee on French education to the Toronto Board of Education. He is a member of the North Bay Chamber of Commerce and the Ritchie and Dante Alleghieri clubs.

Mr. Blais was born June 27, 1940, in Sturgeon Falls, where he completed his secondary school education. He continued his studies at University of Ottawa, receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1961 and Bachelor of Law degree in 1964.

Called to the Ontario Bar in 1965, he practised in Toronto until 1970 when he moved to North Bay. He practised law there until his election to the House of Commons in 1972.

He is married to Maureen Ahearn of Ottawa, and they have three children.

## Gord Priest President of Canadian Foundation for Ileitis and Colitis

Gord Priest, co-ordinator of housing and social characteristics staff, was recently elected national president of the Canadian Foundation for Ileitis and Colitis. Active in 16 cities across the country, the foundation provides funding for medical research and conducts educational programs for the medical community and the public at large.

"The foundation has increased its research grants tenfold since it was formed in 1975," Gord explains. "Government funding is almost non-existent in spite of the alarming increase in the rate of incidence of these diseases. Our education program provides speakers for medical schools and public meetings, and in the fall we will release the first medical textbook ever written on these diseases."

More information on either the foundation or the diseases

Most of us who are non-smokers hailed as a milestone the designation of smoking and non-smoking areas in the cafeteria. It is therefore upsurging to see how many smokers regularly choose to ignore these designations. They seem not to realize that their cigarette smoke can be annoying, even nauseating, to many people.

Meals are a time when all of us look to be refreshed and sustained. For many of us, this time is spoiled by the failure of some people to respect the non-smoking areas.

Annoyed and Nauseated

## Bureau Committee Gains Ground for the Handicapped

by Denis Schutte  
Statistics Canada's committee for the handicapped has made some important changes.

"In our first year, we've found three types of problems," says Bob Desramaux, director of administrative services and chairman of the committee, "physical and architectural barriers, people's attitudes, and procedural problems."

"Our main accomplishment so far has been in correcting architectural barriers such as the size of the handrails of the ramp into the Jean Talon building (which were too large to be used) or where the towels and soap are mounted on wash-room walls, or the tension on the door closers. Many of these changes might appear minor to most of us, but to someone in a wheelchair they make life much more comfortable."

The committee has a fund of \$20,000 set aside to buy special aids for handicapped employees. Last year it purchas-

ed an OPTICON for a typist who is going blind. This translates printed type into an embossed code that the typist reads by touch. Telephone amplifying devices were also bought for employees with hearing loss.

Improving our understanding of the handicapped and combatting false attitudes have been important concerns of the committee. "We still find some long-held misconceptions and unconscious discrimination," Bob points out, "but it's encouraging to see how easily these can be overcome."

"Some discrimination is built into our structures and procedures," Bob says. For example, we've had some thorny questions raised about language requirements for job candidates in promotional competition. The task force will be assisting in this by the Chief Statistician, Executive Committee, ACS corporate management, Guy Labossiere and the IMPAC steering committee.

Developing a departmental policy on management accountability — planning and control — is the third task outlined in the work plan. Aided by the Executive Committee and the steering committee, the task force hopes to have this completed and approved by the end of October.

"Specifically," Jadu explains, "the task force will be concerned with developing policies, guidelines and instructions on strategic planning, operational planning and control, financial and management information systems, internal audit, evaluation and management training. Recommendations of the Price Waterhouse Associates study, as they relate to these areas, will also be the responsibility of the task force."

Susan Macmillan reports, "but no complaints from anyone about the 'pink thing'. It seems to be thriving happily in its new location."

Barbara Cliff is now director of the Jean Talon product division. She has been with the bureau since 1958.

John Coombs is now director of health division. John started with the bureau in July 1969, and was most recently manager of census' edit and imputation task force.

We got the word at last. That sand raising suspicions in front of the Jean Talon building was indeed sand — used for sandblasting the sidewalk during maintenance.

One more Statistics Canada marathoner has been reported. Allen Costello of data processing completed the course in 3 hours, 40 minutes.

Jadu Saha, IMPAC director general for the Human Resources division, was recently elected a Fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada in recognition of his contributions in the field of pesticide chemistry in his previous position as research manager in Agriculture Canada.

### Retirements

Rita Johnston of agriculture division after 12 years of service.

Bea Gunnell, after 20 years with agriculture division.

If the requirement is not 'imperative' we may be able to find a solution, but we have to approach these situations on a case-by-case basis."

The committee's achievements have been largely due to a dedicated and knowledgeable membership. "Members were selected because of their special insights," emphasizes Bob. "Some members are themselves handicapped. Others have personal experience with the handicapped."

### Frank Leacy

Frank Leacy, whose public service spanned almost 40 years, 20 of them with Statistics Canada, died recently in Ottawa at the age of 65. Frank first joined the bureau in 1946, became director of research and development division in 1954, and subsequently held jobs with the United Nations in New York and the Department of Finance before retiring in 1974.

He returned to the Bureau to co-ordinate a revised edition of the *Historical Statistics of Canada* under the joint auspices of Statistics Canada and the Social Science Federation of Canada, completing his duties in 1979. Frank's penetrating mind, quiet dedication and warm presence won the respect of everyone who had the privilege of working with him.

Present members, in addition to Bob, include Jules Deschênes of security, Judy Kirk, census field, Jan Mears, human resources, Judy Patrick, field unit, "E" Lea, Research human resources, the nurses from the health unit, Hank Wightman, MAPID, and Rhoda Manual, data processing division.

Bob is gratified by the progress the committee has generated. Ads in Scan asking for suggestions have received good response from handicapped and non-handicapped alike. A half-day awareness session for personnel administrators last September was successful, and other education programs are currently in the works. "In addition to the architectural issues, we've had success in bringing into the department new handicapped employees. And programs such as the recent sign-language course for co-workers of the deaf have improved communications and understanding. The big challenges now are seeing that the handicapped get an equal opportunity for advancement and watching for any barriers we may not already be aware of."

### Got Some Hot News?

scanline 3-1444

## New EOW Program Helps Women Over the Age of 50

There are almost 600 women over the age of 50 working at Statistics Canada. As a group, they have several career problems in common.

Maryanne has recently entered the work force after raising a family, says Equal Opportunities for Women co-ordinator Rosemary Campbell. These can often benefit from assistance in career planning, or coping with the double workload of home and job.

"Also, all women in this age group should be preparing for retirement. The confusion of superannuation, Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security Pension, Guaranteed Annual Income Supplements, registered retirement savings plans and income tax legislation can be overpowering — particularly with the uncertainty of having or not having a spouse."

To help these women understand and cope with such problems, EOW is establishing the Late-comers to the working force and mature workers working group, headed by Dorothy

Cannon of public finance division.

If you would like to become involved, call the EOW Secretariat at 6-8942.

## Learn to Save Lives with CPR

Enrol now in Statistics Canada's free course in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation by forwarding a course requisition (apply for course iCPR) to Security Room 1104 Main Building For information, call 5-6502

# YOU ARE NEEDED

## At the Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic

July 28 and 29 over 400 pints required

9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., including lunch hour

Main Conference Room (basement level)

R.H. Coats Building

## Beat Metric Confusion problems

Take the bureau's one-day metric course

For information call Jacques Lavigne, C-0448





## Linda Stephenson and Greg Nezan Lead Golfers Again

It was 1978 all over again as Linda Stephenson and Greg Nezan topped the Statistics Canada golf tournament on June 19 and 20 at the Gatineau Golf Club. Linda led the ladies (actually for the third straight year) with an 82 and Greg took the men's cup with a 79.

Runners-up were **Georgette Fosy** with a 104 and **Darryl Rhodes** with an 84.

The perfect weather enjoyed by the Thursday golfers gave way to bursts of rain on Friday, but that didn't dampen the Friday golfers' spirits noticeably. We understand that **Ron**

**Kearney**, after being trapped in the bar for a couple of hours by a torrential downpour, blasted off the first tee with a fantastic drive — the ball exploded. When he tried a five-foot putt on the first green he did not realize that a loaded ball had been substituted for his until the ball went into a crazy, drunken dance — right into the hole. We have also been advised that **Brian Beaupré** was seen later at the pro shop, trying to get a refund on the loaded ball.

Hidden score prizes were won by **Alban Bourdon, Colin Carwardine, Robert Charron, Mike Chen, Dave Collins, Bruce Duncan, Bob Enright, Mike**

**Gagnon, Agnes Gauthier, Peter Ingalls, Judy Kirk, Henri LaCroix, Bernard Legault, Mike Madrofski, Ruth McDougall, Yvon Morin, Roy O'Brien, Gary Ransom, Adel Sauvé and Debbie Toball.** Winners who have not yet picked up their prizes should contact **Jack Bailey** at 6-7825.

Co-ordinator **John Hunton** and all the volunteers who helped won the praises of all participants for producing another great tournament.



Linda Stephenson takes the ladies' cup once more.

## Soccer Team Tops Again

Statistics Canada's soccer team, undefeated in its first six games, is well out in front of the league.

"Everything's coming together just right," **Fred Wong** reports. "This could be our best year yet."

## August 1 Is Deadline for All Team Registrations

So far, our team has defeated Fisheries, CRTC, Burroughs Computer, Bank of Canada and Treasury Board, but was unable to break a tie with NGC.

If you want to register a team in one of the events of the Ottawa Businessmen's and Women's Olympics, call **Leslie Lang** at 563-3360 before August 1.

**Russ Page** reports that attempts to develop Statistics Canada teams have suffered from lack of organizers' time, but Russ will be glad to provide information to individuals who want to participate. He can be reached at 5-0097.

### Fitness program

Room 1706, Statistics Canada building.



Greg Nezan (right) receives his trophy from John Hunton.

## Help Us Help the Handicapped

Your suggestion might make Statistics Canada a nicer place for our handicapped employees to work. Call any member of the departmental committee:

- Bob Desramaux** (chairman), director administrative services (3-6048)
- Jules Deschênes**, security (3-6502)
- Judy Kirk**, census field (5-8298)
- Jan Mears** (secretary), human resources (6-0448)
- Judy Patrick**, field unit "E" (5-8798)
- Lee Reid**, human resources (6-7784)
- Health Unit** (nurses) (3-7046)
- Hank Wightman**, MAPID, 6-7008



## United Way

Field managers are **Percy Cashaback** of corporate management, **Ross Bradley** and **Terry Moore** of social statistics, **Jacques Brisson** of policy planning and evaluation, **Martha Eld** of systems and data processing, **Gord Flynn** and **Milton Ingalls** of economic statistics, and **Gaelan Massicotte** of regional operations and marketing services.

If you would like to volunteer to canvass in this campaign, please contact your field manager, or call **ScanLine 3-7444**.

## Bureau Cafeteria Committee Has its Platter Full

by **Denis Schuthe**

There are few things in life that people are more particular about than the food they eat. This is the basic reason d'être for the Statistics Canada cafeteria committee, which represents the more than 3,500 employees who eat in the bureau's two cafeterias every day.

"We are working to improve services and to give people what they want to eat," says committee chairman **Denise Delaney** of agriculture division. "For example, to meet the growing desire for lighter, health-oriented foods, we succeeded in getting a salad bar

introduced. We are now pressing for a dairy bar service and we're looking into the possibility of offering all-inclusive luncheon specials one day a week."

Introducing a new service is not simply a matter of convincing the caterer. Although **Lorne Murphy** Foods Ltd. makes and serves the food, cafeteria services are controlled by Public Works Canada and monitored for quality control by the Civil Service Recreation Association Foods Services. Any changes have to be worked out with all three parties.

An operation as large as the bureau's cafeteria service is bound to have problems. "We feel we have a role in resolving the problems and complaints of both the cafeteria's customers and the caterer," says Denise.

For complaints about food, both the committee and **Murphy Foods'** general manager **Fred Rusch** stress that these should be taken immediately to the cafeteria manager — **Rose Devine** in the Main building and **Ruby Hansen** in the Jean Talon. Little can be done about a bowl of cold soup if it is not reported for two days.

One of the most common customer complaints is about

prices. There were increases in January and June. "What they don't understand," says **Jim Davidson**, chief of compensation and staff relations and a member of the committee, "is that Public Works sets price ranges, and raises prices only in response to legitimate increases in operating costs. The caterer operates on a limited profit basis."

The committee also takes to heart the complaints of the caterer. One of these is the chronic failure of customers to return trays, dishes, glasses and cutlery. Mr. Rusch reveals that the value of these items lost each month amounts to a staggering \$1,250.

"This loss adds to the total operating cost," points out **Jim Davidson**, "and therefore to the price increases. Customers pay all costs."

A major achievement of the committee has been in forging good working communications with the caterer, **Murphy Foods**. "Our relationship with the department has never been better," **Fred Rusch** affirms.

The committee is a mixture of people appointed by the public service union and management. Comments and suggestions from all employees are welcomed and can be directed to any member. Included on the committee, in addition to **Denise Delaney** and **Jim Davidson**, are **Bryan Finn**, MAPID; **Peter Sloan**, system development division; **Dorothy Lloyd**, prices division; **Roger Ricard**, MAPID; **John Kelly**, demography division; and **Maurice Lacourcière**, accommodation services.

## Happy Feet

Summer fun often causes sore feet. Here are some tips from nurse **Pat McLeod** on keeping a step ahead of foot problems.

- Wear shoes that fit
- Cotton socks or socklets absorb perspiration and prevent blisters.
- Devalue applied liberally to feet and shaken into socks gives added absorption and reduces chafing.
- To prevent ingrown toe-nails, cut nails straight across.
- Devalue exhausted feet by soaking alternately in hot and cold baths.
- Hand cream or baby oil will help reduce painful callous formations.
- If you wear high heeled shoes, alternate high and low heels daily.
- Girls — Nails need to breathe, so remove nail polish regularly.

## PhotoScan

\$175 in prizes for Scanworthy photos for information call **ScanLine 3-7444**

## X-11 ARIMA

(from page 1)  
the principles had been worked out in the 1940s, and two English statisticians, **Box** and **Jenkins**, had put it on computer in 1970. In 1975, I combined X-11 with ARIMA so that computers could produce accurate seasonal adjustment and quick indication of changes in trends and cycles."

Register for

# Bowling

**Tuesdays**  
**Ex-Press League**  
starting Sept. 2 contact  
**Ernie Dours 2-4642**

**Wednesdays**  
**SC League**  
starting Sept. 3 contact  
**Eva Francoeur 3-6234**

**Thursdays**  
**Tab Services League**  
starting Sept. 4 contact  
**Marion Montgomery 3-5686**

spares always needed



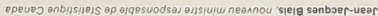




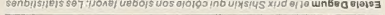




[REDACTED]



(Suite à la page 2)



## White Lies Are Dangerous

ne sauraient remplacer le bon sens.

Madame Estelle Bee Dagum, pales fluctuations des ten-

statistique économique:  
Armin (modèles ad hoc) -  
Ce prix a été créé en mémoire  
sifs à moyen et mobiles infé-

désaisonnalisation X-11, tech-

.....table permettant de découvrir "cycles."

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par les pays comme le Canada, (groupe de travail PFCG), les États-Unis, la France, la

Shiskin pour désaisonnaliser personnes à faibles revenus.

compte de la variété et de gard (bureau du conseiller

Le 8-11 avant cependant que régionales, secrétaire, Dick

assez rapidement les principaux responsables des

en pratique les recommanda-

objectifs. Bon Cousineau (Dr-

Les chais de secteur sont:



**Martens | Lyne**, coordinatrice de

la campagne Centrale 1980.

comblent les postes de secré-

se compose de Pete Carey, directeur des transports et des

Federale, Joan Tremblay, bu-

familiariser avec les nouvelles

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en samband med att de inte har

Alin de respecter l'échance

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groupe assure un programme d'action devant être appliqué

sous-projets qui doivent figurer

de manière qu'une première

Le statisticien en chef,

Each

(Suite à la page 2)